



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,660	03/31/2001	Calvin Selig	10011974-1	8535

7590 11/17/2003

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

TRAN, TAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2676	7

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,660

Applicant(s)

SELIG ET AL.

Examiner

Tam D. Tran

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murphy (USPN 5805868).

2. In regard to claims 1, 15, 31, 47, 48, 50, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, see col.59 lines 52- 57, comprising: performing an initialization routine responsive to a first clear command, see col.59 lines 60-62, wherein the initialization routine comprises eliminating stale information from all pixels outside the subregion; see col.60 lines 1-5; and responsive to a subsequent clear command: updating a current clear count for the region; and writing the updated current clear count into clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion, see col. 59 line 52- col.60 lines 7.

3. In regard to claims 2, 34, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the initialization routine further comprises: ensuring that clear count values associated with all pixels inside and outside the subregion are the same; and writing a predetermined value into all pixels inside the subregion, see col.59 lines 10-17.

4. In regard to claims 3, 35, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the initialization routine further comprises: updating the

Art Unit: 2676

current clear count for the region; and writing the updated current clear count into the clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion, see col.60 lines 1-7.

5. In regard to claims 4, 20, 36, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the pixels correspond to an image buffer. See col.59 lines 52-65.

6. In regard to claims 5, 21, 37, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the pixels correspond to a z buffer. See col.3 lines 20-45.

7. In regard to claims 6, 7, 22, 23, 38, 39, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein: the method is performed using a fast clear computer graphics system in which a predetermined color value is displayed in lieu of a pixel color value for pixels whose associated clear count value does not equal the current clear count; and the predetermined color value is the same as a background color outside the subregion. See col.59 lines 52-67.

8. In regard to claims 8, 24, 40, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the subregion is a scissor region. See col.9 lines 52-60.

9. In regard to claims 9, 25, 41 Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the subregion is a viewport. See col. 59 lines 52-60.

10. In regard to claims 10, 26, 42, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, further comprising: dividing an area outside the subregion into at least one rectangular subarea; and wherein writing the updated current clear count into the clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion comprises executing an area fill operation on the at least one rectangular subarea. See col.59 lines 40-67.

Art Unit: 2676

11. In regard to claims 11, 27, 43, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, further comprising: dividing an area outside the subregion into at least one rectangular subarea; and wherein eliminating stale information from all pixels outside the subregion comprises executing a block transfer operation on the at least one rectangular subarea, wherein a source region and a destination region for the block transfer operation both correspond to the at least one rectangular subarea. See col.59 lines 40- 67.

12. In regard to claims 12, 28, 44, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, further comprising: employing a first striping technique in the subregion. See col.26 lines 47-51.

13. In regard to claims 13, 14, 29, 30, 45, 46, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, further comprising: employing a second striping technique in the region prior to creation of the subregion; wherein the first and second striping techniques are the same striping techniques; and wherein stripe definitions used for striping in the subregion are the same as those that were created and used for striping in the region prior to creation of the subregion. See col.26 lines 47-51.

14. In regard to claims 16, 49, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, further comprising: discontinuing the subregion; and resuming responding to clear commands according to the fast clear technique. See col.59 lines 50- 67.

15. In regard to claim 17, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein: the fast clear technique used prior to creation of the subregion is a striping technique; and wherein stripe definitions for the striping technique are not changed in the resuming step. See col.26 lines 47-51.

Art Unit: 2676

16. In regard to claim 18, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the initialization routing further comprises: ensuring that clear count values associated with all pixels inside and outside the subregion are the same; and writing a predetermined value into all pixels inside the subregion. See col.59 line 52-col.60 line 7.

17. In regard to claim 19, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the initialization routine further comprises: updating the current clear count for the region; and writing the updated current clear count into the clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion. See col.60 lines 1-7.

18. In regard to claim 32, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the predetermined threshold percentage is about 75%. See col.48 lines 11-15.

19. In regard to claim 33, Murphy teaches a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, wherein the predetermined threshold percentage is about 70%. See col.48 lines 11-15.

### ***Response to Arguments***

20. Applicant's arguments filed on 08/28/2003, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach "a method of performing clear operations in a region having a subregion, including responsive to a subsequent clear command: updating a current clear count for the region; and writing the updated current clear count into clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion". However, examiner respectfully

Art Unit: 2676

disagrees with the argument because on the abstract and col.59 lines 40-65, Murphy teaches performing clear operations in a region having a subregion (n regions) including: issuing a clear command (responsive to a subsequent clear command: updating a current clear count for the region), clearing the data values of at least some other pixels (writing the updated current clear count into clear count values associated with all pixels outside the subregion). For these reasons, the rejections are maintained.

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

### *Conclusion*

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tam D. Tran** whose telephone number is **703-305-4196**. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI from 8:30 – 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Matthew Bella** can be reached on **703-308-6829**.

Art Unit: 2676

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

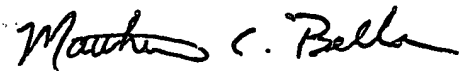
Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, Sixth floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose  
telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Tam Tran

*TT*  
Examiner

Art unit 2676



MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600